

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-6, 8-11 and 13 are now present in the application. Claims 5-12 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-6 and 8-11 have been amended. Claim 13 has been added. Claims 7 and 12 have been cancelled. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Restriction and Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' election of Species I (claims 1-4), and made the restriction requirement final to withdraw claims 5-12 from further consideration. As the Examiner will note, in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is believed that generic independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since non-elected claims 5, 6 and 8-11 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner examine all claims, including non-elected dependent claims 5, 6 and 8-11 upon allowance of independent claim 1.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Drawings Objection

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Since claims 7 and 12 have been cancelled to expedite the prosecution of the application, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claims 2-4 have been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Accordingly, this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kim, U.S. Patent No. 6,621,058. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, as the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements including "the air curtain generating unit including: a fan housing formed at the front bottom side of the cabinet, the fan housing having an intake opening at the front bottom side of the cabinet and an outflow opening at the front bottom side of the cabinet; and a blowing fan disposed at the front bottom side of the cabinet in the fan housing, the blowing fan inhaling air through the intake opening and exhaling the air through the outflow opening to form an air curtain to prevent the polluted air from diffusing into a room".

Support for the above combination of elements can be found in FIGs. 6 and 7 of the instant application. Applicants respectfully submit that the

combination of elements set forth in claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by the reference relied on by the Examiner.

Kim '058 discloses a wall-mounted microwave oven with an air curtain guide, including a blower fan 31 in the electric component compartment 12, an air inlet 32 on the front surface of an upper portion of the electric component compartment 12, and an air-discharging outlet 30 at the front lower portion of the oven body 10 to communicate with the electric component compartment 12 via a through hole 34 at the bottom surface of the electric component compartment 12 (see FIGs. 2 and 3).

However, Kim' 058 fails to teach "a fan housing formed at the front bottom side of the cabinet, the fan housing having an intake opening at the front bottom side of the cabinet and an outflow opening at the front bottom side of the cabinet" as recited in amended independent claim 1.

First, the Examiner did not refer to a specific element of Kim's 058 as the fan housing. Although the blower fan 31 is in the electric component compartment 12, the electric component compartment 12 is inside the oven body 10 and not "formed at the front bottom side of the cabinet" as recited in amended independent claim 1. Therefore, the electric component compartment 12 of Kim' 058 fails to teach "a fan housing formed at the front bottom side of the cabinet" as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Second, Kim '058 discloses an air-discharging outlet 30 at the front lower portion of the oven body 10 to communicate with the electric component compartment 12 via a through hole 34 at the bottom surface of the electric component compartment 12 (see FIG. 3; col. 4, lines 26-30). In other words, the air-discharging outlet 30 is not part of the electric component compartment 12. Accordingly, Kim '058 fails to teach "the fan housing having... an outflow opening at the front bottom side of the cabinet" as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Third, Kim '058 merely discloses an air inlet 32 on the front surface of an upper portion of the electric component compartment 12. Kim '058 fails to teach any air inlet at the front bottom of the oven body 10. Accordingly, Kim '058 fails to teach "the fan housing having an intake opening at the front bottom side of the cabinet" as recited in amended independent claim 1.

The Examiner correctly indicated that Kim '058 fails to teach "a blowing fan disposed at the front bottom side of the cabinet in the fan housing" as recited in amended independent claim 1. Since claim 1 also recites that the fan housing has an intake opening and an outflow opening, both being at the front bottom side of the cabinet, the blowing fan, the intake opening and the outflow opening are all at the front bottom side of the cabinet. Accordingly, modifying Kim '058 to mount the blower fan 32 near the air-discharging outlet 30, as suggested by the Examiner, would still fail to teach claim 1 because this

modification would make the blower fan 32 far away from the air inlet 32, which is at the top front side of the oven body 10.

Since Kim '058 fails to teach each and every recitation of amended independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Kim '058.

In view of the above amendments to the claims and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 clearly defines the present invention over the reference relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim '058. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim '058 in view of Kim, U.S. Patent No. 6,797,930. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

As mentioned, Kim '058 fails to teach each and every recitation of amended independent claim 1.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on Kim '930, this reference has only been relied on for its teachings of a crossflow fan. This reference also fails

to disclose the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, this reference fails to cure the deficiencies of Kim '058.

Accordingly, neither Kim '058 nor Kim '930 individually or in combination teaches or suggests the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Since claims 2-4 depend, either directly or indirectly, from amended independent claim 1 which defines over the teachings of Kim '058 and Kim '930, claims 2-4 are allowable based on their respective dependence from independent claim 1.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4 clearly define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claim

Claim 13 has been added for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectively submit that claim 13 is directed to the elected Species I. Support for claim 13 can be found in FIGs. 6 and 7 and on the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 11 of the specification. Applicants respectively submit that claim 13 depends directly from amended independent claim 1, and is therefore allowable based on its dependence from amended independent claim 1, which

is believed to be allowable. Consideration and allowance of claim 13 are respectfully requested.

Additional Cited Reference

Since the remaining patent cited by the Examiner has not been utilized to reject the claims, but rather to merely show the state of the art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Application No.: 10/757,989
Art Unit: 3742

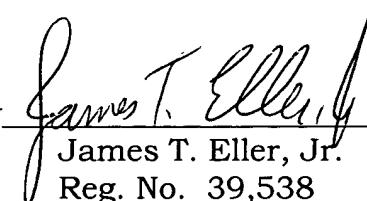
Attorney Docket No. 0630-1933P
Amendment dated July 7, 2005
Page 15

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



James T. Eller, Jr.
Reg. No. 39,538

JTE/GH/mmi/asc/slb

JP

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000